

Patent Application 09/781,532  
Docket No. P14309US

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

**Claim rejections – 35 USC §102**

In paragraph 3 of his report the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,298 (hereinafter called Lamb). Please note that independent claims 2 and 9 have been amended while claims 1, 3, 8 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant. Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended in accordance to the cancellation of claims 1, 3, 8 and 13 and to the amendments made to claims 2 and 9.

Claims 2 and 9 have been amended as proposed in paragraph 4 of the Examiner's report. In his report, the Examiner has indicated that he was willing to allow claims 6-7 and 13-17 if they are rewritten. Therefore, claims 2 and 9 have been amended in consideration of the limitations presented in claim 13. Additionally, claims 4-5 and 10-12, which depend directly or ultimately from claims 2 and 9 while adding further limitations thereto, are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support of claims 2 and 9. Consequently, Applicants kindly request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favourable action for all pending claims.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-12 and 14-17 are thus in condition for favourable action. If the Examiner would find that the further prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned at (514) 345-7891.

Respectfully submitted,

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